

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the Record 1 of 1

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I ask that you keep the current morse code requirements. The stupidification of America has to STOP! Our children are learning, because they don't have to. It's sad to see it's worked it's way into every fiber of society. Make the requirement stay and add all the other comms modes to the test. We're supposed to be communication experts!!!

Your immediate action is needed to prevent a Federal commission from doing irreparable damage to an essential component of our country's disaster response team.

Without public input, the Federal Communications Commission has announced that it plans to issue a rules change proposal to simplify its own oversight job. This will effect massive change to the Amateur Radio Service. The immediate effect of the proposed rules changes will be to reduce the technical and operational requirements to earn an amateur radio license.

The end effect will be a downgrading/dumbing down of the amateur service as a whole. The FCC has hinted that it would like to, for its own sake of simplicity to administer, eliminate examinations entirely in the future.

We should not forget how essential it is to have amateur radio operators who have the practical ability to construct communications capability from spare parts that is only acquired through years of experience and then only when based on a solid technical and operational framework. This has been proven time and again during natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc.

The FCC has informally proposed to reduce significantly both the number of achievement levels, or classes, of amateur license and to change fundamentally the level of expertise required to achieve these levels.

I find it ironic that, at the very time when you are leading the discussion over the need for increased standards in education, your appointed FCC is doing the exact opposite: Massively reducing the technical and operational standards required for a license in the Amateur Radio Service.

The FCC also proposes to minimize rules because they have not the capability to enforce rules on ham frequencies. Enforcement is already low and unfortunate behavior is already being transmitted around the world. Policing is a major function of government. Why would the FCC choose to shirk its regulatory responsibility? Why not seek ways to fund and fulfill their responsibility?

D"Wanna Terry of the FCC in a meeting with Volunteer Amateur Radio Examiners was quoted as saying, "on the Notice of Pending Rules Making is made, the FCC will no longer be responsive to any negative

comments from hams."

Do I still live in America?

Please intercede here. The FCC needs your direction. If changes are needed, the expertise to identify problems and to construct proposals to address them lies within the Amateur Radio Service community itself. Please direct the FCC to set aside its own destructive proposal and instead to get active involvement of amateurs both to agree on problem statements as well as solution proposals. With your active leadership we could have another example of how the Federal government and its citizens can work together for the public good.

The FCC is probably under-funded and about to use that excuse to sidestep a major responsibility. Please intercede immediately for the good of the future of our country. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

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